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## NEWS RELEASE

### California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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#### **CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER ISSUES COMPLAINT FOR \$231,000 TO TOWN OF DISCOVERY BAY**

SACRAMENTO – The town of Discovery Bay in Contra Costa County faces a penalty of \$231,000 as a result of a raw sewage spill in July 2008.

The Discovery Bay Community Services District violated both the Statewide General WDRs for Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems Order and its Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order by discharging approximately 100,000 gallons of raw sewage to surface waters from July 17, 2008 to July 18, 2008.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint in the matter. This Complaint may be considered at the Central Valley Water Board's regular public meeting on February 5 or 6, 2009.

The spill was the result of a pump station malfunction after a power outage. Three of the four pumps failed to start after power was restored, and one pump restarted at minimum capacity.

The District's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system generated high level alarms, which were dismissed by an operator without verifying that the pump station was operating properly. The District was not aware of the spill until it was reported by a third party approximately 10 hours after the event.

The overflow originated from a sewer cleanout in the Lakeshore residential community at Discovery Bay. The spilled raw sewage entered a storm drain that discharges directly to Lakeshore Lake, which is hydraulically connected to the Delta. The full 100,000 gallons of untreated wastewater is believed to have reached the lake.

In addition to the violations because of the spill itself, the District also failed to submit required reports.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.